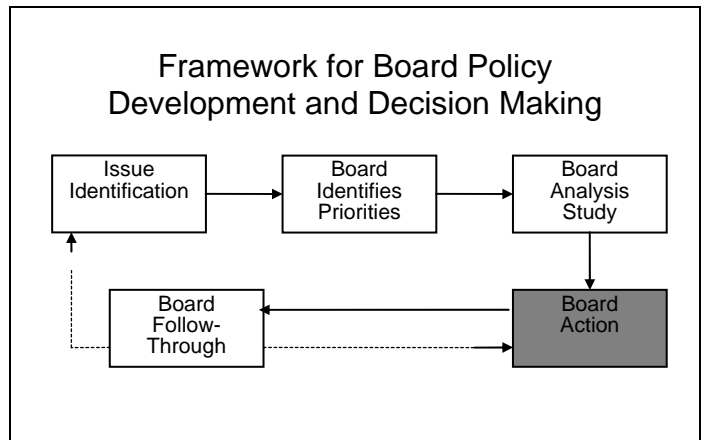


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

November 14, 2007



Agenda Item: Chapter 12 rules, General Accreditation Standards (Adopt)
(School counseling program)

Iowa Goal: (2) All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.

Equity Impact Statement: All school districts and accredited nonpublic schools are governed by the accreditation standards. Recent legislation mandated that all school districts have a counselor and a school nurse, and that the State Board adopt standards for an articulated sequential K-12 guidance program.

Presenter: None (Consent Agendum)

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board adopt and file the following amendments to this chapter.

Background: These amendments are in compliance with a new law enacted this past session by the Iowa Legislature. Since the Notice of Intended action was published, one item has been changed, though not because of any public comment. The definition of "at-risk student" was inadvertently omitted from Notice of Intended action. New Item 1 includes that amendment. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify that students with disabilities may also be considered "at-risk," and may have access to programming for at-risk students.

Item 2 defines "school counseling program," Item 3 adopts standards for such programs (including the employment of a qualified counselor), and Item 4 adds the employment requirement for a school nurse by school districts. These rules by statute do not impact accredited nonpublic schools.

A public hearing was held on November 2, 2007, and public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. November 2, 2007. No one appeared at the public hearing. The 33 written comments that were received by the agency were all wholly supportive of the amendments.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education amends Chapter 12, “General Accreditation Standards,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments are in compliance with 2007 Iowa Acts, Senate File 277, which (in section 4 thereof) creates new accreditation statutes requiring that each school district have a school nurse and a qualified (i.e., licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners) guidance counselor. The new legislation also requires that the State Board establish in rule a definition of and standards for an articulated sequential kindergarten through grade 12 school counseling program.

An agency wide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the October 10, 2007 Iowa Administrative Bulletin as ARC6293B. A public hearing was held on November 2, 2007, and public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. November 2, 2007. No one appeared at the public hearing. 33 written comments were received by the agency, all of which were wholly favorable to the amendments.

Since the Notice of Intended action was published, one item has been changed, though not because of any public comment. The definition of “at-risk student” was inadvertently omitted from Notice of Intended action. New Item 1 includes that amendment. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify that students with disabilities may also be considered “at-risk,” and may have access to programming for at-risk students.

These amendments are intended to implement 2007 Iowa Acts, Senate File 277.

These amendments shall become effective January 9, 2008.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend the definition of “at-risk student” in rule **281—12.2(256)** as follows:

“At-risk student” means any identified student who needs additional support and who is not meeting or not expected to meet the established goals of the educational program (academic, personal/social, career/

vocational). At-risk students, ~~other than students with disabilities~~, include but are not limited to students in

the following groups: homeless children and youth, dropouts, returning dropouts, and potential dropouts.

ITEM 2. Amend rule ~~281—12.2(256)~~ by adding the following **new** definition in alphabetical order:

“School counseling program” means an articulated sequential kindergarten through grade 12 program that is comprehensive in scope, preventive in design, developmental in nature, driven by data, and integral to the school district’s curricula and instructional program. The program is implemented by at least one school counselor, appropriately licensed by the board of educational examiners, who works collaboratively with the district’s administration and instructional staff. The program standards are described in subrule 12.3(11). The program’s delivery system components shall include the following:

1. School guidance curriculum;
2. Support of the overall school curriculum;
3. Individual student planning;
4. Responsive services; and
5. System support.

ITEM 3. Rescind subrule 12.3(11) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

12.3(11) Standards for school counseling programs. The board of directors of each school district shall establish a K–12 comprehensive school counseling program, driven by student data and based on standards in academic, career, personal, and social areas, which supports the student achievement goals of the total school curriculum and to which all students have equitable access.

a. A qualified school counselor, licensed by the board of educational examiners, who works collaboratively with students, teachers, support staff and administrators shall direct the program and provide services and instruction in support of the curricular goals of each attendance center. The school counselor shall be the member of the attendance center instructional team with special expertise in identifying resources and technologies to support teaching and learning. The school counselor and classroom teachers shall collaborate to develop, teach, and evaluate attendance center curricular goals with emphasis on the following:

- (1) Sequentially presented curriculum, programs, and responsive services that address growth and development of all students; and
- (2) Attainment of student competencies in academic, career, personal, and social areas.

b. The program shall be regularly reviewed and revised and shall be designed to provide all of the following:

(1) Curriculum that is embedded throughout the district's overall curriculum and systemically delivered by the school counselor in collaboration with instructional staff through classroom and group activities and that consists of structured lessons to help students achieve desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge and skills appropriate for their developmental levels;

(2) Individual student planning through ongoing systemic activities designed to help students establish educational and career goals to develop future plans;

(3) Responsive services through intervention and curriculum that meet students' immediate and future needs as occasioned by events and conditions in students' lives and that may require any of the following: individual or group counseling; consultation with parents, teachers, and other educators; referrals to other school support services or community resources; peer helping; and information; and

(4) Systemic support through management activities that establish, maintain, and enhance the total school counseling program, including professional development, consultation, collaboration, program management, and operations.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 12.4(12) as follows:

12.4(12) Nurses. ~~Each~~ The board that employs of each school district shall employ a school nurse and shall require a current license to be filed with the superintendent or other designated administrator as specified in subrule 12.4(10).